

DESERT EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 9, 1904.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

The First Presidency will preside at the Tabernacle meetings on the Sabbath Day. The members of the Tabernacle choir are invited to be prompt in attendance and we hope the Bishops will relieve them as far as possible from ward duties that would interfere with their attendance on Sundays in the Tabernacle.

The Presidencies of the new stakes will take seats on the stand.

All the High Councilors and Presidencies of the High Priest's Quorums will take seats on the South side of the stand, and Bishops and counselors on the North side of the stand.

The retiring Presidency of the Salt Lake Stake will continue to occupy their seats. JOSEPH E. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

A SUDDEN BEREAVEMENT.

The sudden demise of Dennis C. Eichnor, District Attorney for the Third Judicial District of Utah, is startling news, carrying deep grief to many thousands of admiring friends of the departed. That he had been ailing for some time was known and regretted; but no forebodings of a serious character, so far as we have heard, were entertained by anyone. The sad tidings, therefore, came with a suddenness that occasioned a severe shock, and the Desert News shares in the general sorrow that is felt. We have always regarded Dennis Eichnor as a fair-minded, honorable and affable gentleman. He has proved an able public officer, a vigorous prosecutor, a well-read attorney, and a faithful representative of the people, throughout his official career. He was with an astute and far-seeing politician, and served his party with a zeal and fidelity that secured the confidence and esteem of his associates. His talents as a lawyer, a conductor of important cases, a pleader at the bar and an indefatigable worker in legal matters, are well known and generally appreciated. His pleasant bearing and kindly nature endeared him to all classes of the community, and the mourning at his unexpected taking away from us will be universal. An office is left vacant that it will not be easy to fill, a home is deprived of its leading spirit, and the family so suddenly bereaved have the deepest sympathy in their sorrow. This is a public loss, and Dennis Eichnor will be sadly missed from the circles in which he moved with such distinguished prominence and fraternal affection. God comfort the dear ones whom he has left in tears!

NOT HER ANCESTOR.

In our London letter published March 26, not in an editorial as asserted, was an item which has been "going the rounds" about Mrs. Eddy of "Christian Science" fame being a descendant of Sir John McNeil of Edinburgh. It appeared originally in the Ladies' Home Journal, in an article said to have been prepared under Mrs. Eddy's personal supervision. A refutation of the story was published in the London Truth, showing that the claim was baseless and false. We are now in receipt of a letter from M. H. Lincome of Ogden, stating that the matter was fully corrected some time ago in the Christian Science Sentinel. It was admitted that the claim was made in the biographical sketch about Mrs. Eddy, as "the source of information seemed to be authentic," but that as there is no "positive proof" that Sir John McNeil was her ancestor, Mrs. Eddy requests "that all others writing upon her biography shall in future observe this correction." We give the correction this notice, not that we think the matter of any public moment, but in order that it may not be thought the "News" desires to be unfair with anybody.

COLONISTS AND CANADA.

"A special dispatch to the Portland Telegram from Vancouver, B. C., says: There is a great race in the Northwest territories over the Mormon invasion. Hundreds of followers of Mormonism, it is said, are settling in Alberta and the newcomers are sending for more of their associates. In a sermon delivered at Edmonton last Sunday, Rev. D. G. McQueen one of the most noted divines in the Canadian West, made a strong attack on Mormonism. He declared that there is no doubt proof that the Mormons are aiming to control the government of the territories and he strongly urged the people of other sects to be watchful of the growth of Mormonism in

this country. It is illegal to practice polygamy in Canada."

The foregoing appears in some of the papers in the northwest and needs brief correction. There is no need for any "scare" about a "Mormon invasion," either in Canada or elsewhere. A rumor of this sort has been raised periodically for a great many years. Formerly it was Mexico that was alleged to be the place for the hegira. It is now simply transferred to Canada. The truth is that the "Mormon" settlements in Alberta are flourishing like other colonies of Latter-day Saints, and they form such a desirable class of industrial citizens that they are welcomed and invited to make homes there. But there is no rush in that direction nor any great numbers of removals to Canadian points. A few families move there as opportunities open, but Utah is good enough for most of them. It is to be expected that sectarian preachers will attack "Mormonism," about which they are usually as ignorant as horses, but that signifies nothing unless it is intolerance and jealousy. As to polygamy, it is just as illegal to practice it in Utah as it is in Canada. Mormon colonists are in much greater demand at different points than the supply will furnish.

NOT ALWAYS A PROPHET.

Many people, including some of the great men of the nation, do not seem to comprehend how a man can be a Prophet, Seer and Revelator by divine appointment and inspiration, and yet on ordinary occasions be like a common man with human imperfections and failings. They seem not to sense the teaching of ancient scripture.

"For the prophecy came not of old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost."—II Peter 1, 21.

The Prophet Joseph Smith had occasion frequently to set people right on this point. Their notions about the appearance, manners and deportment of a prophet were imbibed from tradition, and pictures drawn from imagination like those which represent angels as beings with wings, half woman, half bird, both nonsensical and untrue. The following extract from his daily journal touches the matter directly:

"Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1842. This morning I read German, and visited with a brother and sister from Michigan, who thought that 'a Prophet is always a prophet,' but I told them that a Prophet was a prophet only when he was acting as such."

A little reflection and an ordinary understanding of Biblical doctrine would show that men of God were inspired to speak and write his word when "the Spirit of the Lord came upon them." It is declared of them, like it is said of Elias:

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again and the heavens gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."—James v, 17, 18.

People who think the Latter-day Saints regard every word uttered by their leaders on any occasion as "the word of God," are entirely mistaken. It is only when they speak under the power and influence of the Holy Ghost that the word and will of the Lord are manifested, and it is the privilege of every man and woman who obeys the Lord's commands to receive of the same spirit and know of the doctrine whether it be of God or of man. See John vii, 17; Doc. and Cov. Sec. 68, 4.

UTAH AS IT IS.

The long looked for volume with the above title has at length been issued and is now ready for the public. It is a comprehensive work, but its stories and details are briefly told. When it is understood that its 640 pages, including index, comprises the chief points in the history of the State and a summary of prominent incidents in the progress of the Church, with biographical sketches of a large number of ladies and gentlemen who have figured in the upbuilding of Utah and the development of its varied resources and industries, it will be readily seen that brevity was essential in its production. The style is that of the vigorous and versatile author, so well known in Utah journalism. "Essay" (S. A. Kenner's) original and pointed manner of expression is easily recognized, and gives added interest to the information with which the work abounds. The portraits and other illustrations that adorn the book are more than ordinarily good and accurate, and the whole volume is valuable for reference as well as for entertainment. We commend it to our friends and to the general public.

ISOLATION NOT DESIRED.

A correspondent of the New York Evening Post makes a plea for Russia and points out that if that country is kept isolated, and prevented from obtaining outlets to the Pacific, and the Mediterranean, its peculiarities will continue, but if it is permitted to expand and come in contact with civilization, it will in time be transformed and be like unto the rest of the world.

In illustration of this view he quotes a paragraph from the New York Times, in which the writer tells what he supposes he knows about "Mormonism." "Mormonism," it will be noted, is a quite popular subject at present, as most as popular as the war in Asia, so there is a peculiar fitness in the comparison between "Mormonism" and Russia. Very peculiar! The idea of the New York Times is:

"Mormonism, or any other ism, cannot subsist and grow when once the normal civilization of the times catches up to it. Mormonism, in particular, has grown and thriven by its isolation. When it lay off in the heart of the 'Great American Desert' and had to be 'reached' by slow and painful stages, the 'peculiar people' might remain peculiar. But the opening of the Pacific railroad was the beginning of the end. Once brought into relations with the general current of American life, Mormonism was doomed. The only question left was of the rapidity of its extinction."

The paragraph may not be particularly strong as a searchlight revealing the consequences of Russian isolation, or expansion, but it certainly reveals the fact that some moulders of public opin-

ion are entirely ignorant even of the history of "Mormonism," not to say anything of its doctrines; or, that they are utterly indifferent as to whether they state facts or not when that religion is involved.

"Mormonism" has never aimed at isolation; and has never suffered from contact with civilization. The greatest efforts of the Latter-day Saints have been put forth to overcome the isolation, to which mobs thought they could doom them, in the hope, no doubt, that destruction would overtake them. One of the first attempts by the Saints, when they had found a refuge in the then wilderness, was to bridge the wide gulf between them and civilization, and to make isolation no more. They have labored for this incessantly. They have taken their stand in the front ranks of educators, and devotees of arts and sciences. They know that the worst enemies of "Mormonism," as of all truth, are ignorance, prejudice, bigotry and those afflicted with such mental deformities, and that friends for the Church are always made among the intelligent, enlightened and liberty-loving classes. The opening of the Pacific railroad was an event of joy to Utah and the Church members. The only forces "Mormonism" has to fear are those that disseminate the seeds of sin and unrighteousness among the members, particularly those that are at work in the dark. But even these will be overcome. For the Lord's hand is over His people, and its destiny is assured.

SAN BERNARDINO PIONEERS.

A very interesting book has been published in California, called the "History of San Bernardino Valley, from the Padres to the Pioneers." It takes in the period from 1810 to 1851. It has some particulars with kindly mention about the "Mormon" settlement of San Bernardino, a part of which is heretofore appended. The author is Rev. Father Juan Caballeria, and it appears that his work has been in much demand. Mr. Wm. J. Silver of this city has a copy and sent to Father Caballeria for another, and received the following letter, which we publish because of its liberal expressions towards our people:

"Los Angeles, Cal., March 19, 1904. 'Mr. Wm. J. Silver, Salt Lake:

"Dear Sir—In answer to your favor of 14th inst. I have to say that the History of Santa Barbara is out of print, as the whole edition is sold. Some time this year we will print the second edition and I may be able to send a copy to you. As you say the 'Mormon' pioneers were good people and it is but just to say so, especially today when some people take pleasure in running them down. Let us do our best in the world in the assurance that God will bless us all; and there is no necessity for us to find fault with our fellow men. 'Believe me to be sincerely yours, 'FATHER CABALLERIA.'"

Here are a few paragraphs from the book relative to the "Mormon" colonists:

"It was toward the close of the war between the United States and Mexico that a regiment was recruited from among the Mormons for service in the U. S. army. This regiment was known as the Mormon Battalion. After their return from Mexico they were quartered for some time in Southern California and while here received final discharge from service. They were law-abiding, God-fearing men and gained the respect of the people of California. Indeed, the citizens of San Diego found them so useful and desirable as neighbors that a general petition was circulated and signed by every inhabitant of the town requesting them to make a permanent settlement among them, and many of them remained in that part of California.

"Captain Jefferson Hunt was the first of the Mormons to come into San Bernardino valley and it was chiefly through his efforts that the Mormons colonized here. He was a man of more than average energy and ability and whose honesty and integrity of character was unquestioned.

"In March, 1851, a large party of emigrants, consisting of about 500 persons, with cattle, horses, etc., left Salt Lake for San Bernardino valley. This train was under command of Captain Hunt, who was to take the lead and pilot them through to their destination. As it was impossible for them to travel as one company, on account of scarcity of forage and water in crossing the desert, the train was divided into three sections. The first section, under Captain Hunt, came into San Bernardino valley and encamped at Sycamore Grove, at the mouth of Cajon Pass, on St. John's day, the 24th of June, 1851.

"Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich, two of the original Twelve Apostles of Brigham Young, were with this party of colonists. They at once opened negotiations with the Lugos for the purchase of the Rancho de San Bernardino. During the summer the transfer was completed and the 'Mormon' possession of the property. The purchase price was \$7,500. The colonists did not have the money to pay for the property and Elders Lyman and Rich, with Captain Hunt as agent, went to San Francisco, where they secured a loan for the amount. The money was borrowed of Haywood and Morley and was paid in three installments.

"It is not within the province of this chapter to criticize or discuss doctrinal points, tenets of faith or the circumstances which brought the Mormon Church into conflict with the government of the United States. It is sufficient to say that the Mormons who first came to San Bernardino valley were ideal colonists. They were farmers, mechanics and artisans of the various crafts. So far as material advantages went there was perfect equality. There was wealth and no poverty among them. The system upon which the government of the Mormon Church was based was purely patriarchal and it was carried out in the religious, domestic and social life of the Mormon people. They were the extreme of conservatives, and sufficient unto themselves did not desire or tolerate outside influence or interference. As a community they were honest, industrious, law-abiding, peaceful citizens and under their wise management the beautiful valley blossomed into marvelous productivity. The Church laws were sufficient to regulate all public matters until state laws were established. All minor dissensions among themselves were carried into the Church council and there submitted to arbitration. There was no appeal to other tribunals. Their moral conduct was beyond reproach. Idleness, drunkenness, gambling and vice was unknown among them until after day when another class of people came to mingle with them.

"Such were the people who colonized San Bernardino valley. Let credit and honor be given where credit and honor are due."

What's the matter with Kansas? Nothing but a blizzard this time.

If China throws in her lot with Japan,

Russia will throw it into China before the thing is settled.

The Japanese are on the Yalu and the Russians are on the qui vive.

The sheep and cattlemen should be able to get together without locking horns.

In the matter of cleaning up back yards, never put off till tomorrow what can be done today.

Raising the price of flour because the "roads are bad" is a very bad excuse for a very bad practice.

No matter how often or in what manner the beef trust is attacked, it always manages to light on all fours.

The man who, this kind of weather, doesn't get the spring fever, is fit for treason, stratagems and spoli.

When the Jap squadron reaches the mouth of the Yalu it will do something more than make mouths at the Russians.

Several of the leading universities are beginning to teach life insurance. Very good indeed, but still no substitute for teaching the way of life.

Bicyclist may be permitted to violate the city ordinance regarding riding on the sidewalks but they should not be allowed to exceed the speed limits laid down by the law.

A Philadelphia belle who was caught in the street and hugged by a negro said after her escape that she supposed at first that one of her friends was trying to surprise her. Her friend couldn't have surprised her more.

One of Jersey City's citizens has just obtained a verdict against a Brooklyn railroad at the rate of three hundred and fifty-seven dollars an hour for being imprisoned. Surely those were golden hours.

So ex-Congressman Tim Campbell is dead. In his time he was famous as the author of the saying, "You shouldn't let the Constitution stand between friends." Too frequently the Constitution is made to stand 'round instead of between friends and politicians being made to stand 'round.

According to the report of Consul Lay at Barcelona the attempt on King Alfonso's life was merely a gas explosion and not the bursting of a bomb. In explaining the official accounts of the incident let it be remembered that Spain is the land of Don Quixote.

Speaking at the Periodical Publishers' Association dinner, President Roosevelt said, among other things: "I think that we of the United States cannot keep too fresh in our minds the fact that the men responsible for the government are not the representatives of the people but the people themselves." That is to say, the men responsible for the government are "it."

"The Acorn" is the title of a very neat and interesting school magazine, published in Ogden city, by the students of the Weber Stake Academy. Joseph Stimpson Editor-in-chief, with a corps of assistants and contributors. The initial number contains a biographical sketch, with portraits, of the Presidency of the Weber Stake of Zion. Elders L. W. Shurtliff, C. F. Middleton and N. C. Flygare, besides a number of articles on subjects appropriate to the pupils of the Academy. We hope the Acorn will grow into a mighty oak in the garden of education.



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" * ; for it was

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